

VARIANTA 1

SUBIECTUL A - USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

I. Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable tense/ form:

10x1p = 10p

My father had described over and over again what we (1) (see) at every milestone, after leaving the nearest town, so that I was positive I would recognize it as familiar territory. Well, I (2) (be) wrong, for I was now lost. I looked at the map then at the milometer. I (3) (come) ten miles since leaving the town, and at this point, according to my father, I should be looking at farms and cottages in a valley with the spire of the church of our village (4) (show) in the distance. I could see no valley, no farms, no cottages and no church - only a lake. I decided that I (5) (take) a wrong turning somewhere. So I drove back to the town and began to retrace the route, taking frequent glances at the map. I landed up at the same corner. The curious thing was that the lake was not marked on the map. I felt as if I (6) (stumble) into a nightmare country, as you sometimes do in dreams. Fortunately for me, as I (7) (wonder) what to do next, there (8) (appear) on the horizon a man on horseback. I waited till he came near and I asked him the way to our village. He said there was no village. I thought he (9) (misunderstand) me, so I repeated its name. This time he pointed to the lake. The village no longer existed because it (10) (submerge), and all the valley, too.

II. Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits in each space:

10x1p=10p

The Martian: a review

Just when everyone thought that Matt Damon couldn't get any better, he did. In fact, Damon's latest film performance is (1) out of this world. Literally! The film is (2) *The Martian* and it's about a team of astronauts whose job is to live on the (3) planet of Mars and conduct tests to find out if it has, or ever had, an ecosystem of any sort. (4), they are forced to abandon their project and their space lab when a (5) storm takes them by surprise. The main protagonist Mark Watney, played by Damon, is struck with flying debris as he makes his way to the rocket which will take them off the planet and his crew members (6) leave him for dead.

What follows is two hours of Mark's fighting for his very survival, making the best of what is available to him in his very barren surroundings. Mark's biggest problem is food. He has enough rations to last him for a short time, but knows they are not sufficient. Suddenly, it hits him! As a botanist, as well as an astronaut, Mark comes up with the (7) idea of using his fresh potato rations as seedlings to produce a (8) food source. Using human waste -yuck – as (9), he manages to grow a crop which will hopefully supplement his (10) needs. Don't be lulled into believing that this is the end of Mark's problems, though. This is, after all, a Hollywood blockbuster, so rest assured that there is much more to come for the Martian!

1. DENY 2. TITLE 3. FAR 4. FORTUNE 5. TERROR 6. TRAGEDY 7. INNOVATE 8. SUSTAIN 9. FERTILE 10. NUTRITION

III. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D:

10x1p = 10p

- She works as _____ teacher in _____ school for _____ blind in Ireland. _____ school has over _____ thousand pupils.
A) a/the/the/The/a; B) -/the/-/The/-; C) a/a/the/The/a; D) the/a/the/A/a
- Caroline _____ in Italy for two years when she _____ going out with Paolo. At that time he _____ to become a teacher and she _____ him at a college disco.
A) has been living/had started/was training/met; B) lived/had started/trained/met; C) had been living/started/was training/met; D) was living/started/trained/met
- When I _____ about the accident on the news, I immediately _____ my daughter to check that she _____ back safe and sound. She _____ me she _____ a different way home.
A) heard/had phoned/got/had told/took; B) had heard/phoned/had got/told/took; C) was hearing/was phoning/ had got/told/had taken; D) heard/phoned/had got/told/had taken
- I wonder where she can be. She _____ here by now. She _____ her bus.
A) should have got/must have missed B) should get/must have missed C) should have got/must miss D) should get/must miss
- "Would you like to join me to my sister's anniversary this evening?" Mike said.
A) Mike asked me if I can join him to his sister's anniversary this evening. B) Mike invited me last week to join him to his sister's

- anniversary this evening. C) Mike invited me to join him to his sister's anniversary that evening. D) Mike has invited me to join him to his sister's anniversary that evening.
6. When he _____ you again, he will be impressed with how much you _____.
A) will see/have grown B) sees/grew C) sees/have grown D) will see/grew
 7. Martha ar fi pus masa dacă ar fi știut că o să vin acasă mai devreme decât de obicei.
A) Had she known I would come home earlier than usual, Martha would have laid the table. B) Martha would have lain the table if she had known I would come home earlier than usual. C) Martha would have laid the table if she knew I will come home earlier than usual. D) Had she known I would come earlier than usual, Martha would have lain the table
 8. I've never got ... well with my ... brothers.
A) down/ older B) on/ elder C) up/ eldest D) in/ oldest
 9. _____ of the two sisters do you like _____? The _____ or the _____?
A) What/ best/ first/ second B) Which/ better/ former/ latter C) Who/ most/ former/ letter D) Whichever/ more/ former/ later
 10. _____ had they reached the top of the mountain ... a thunderstorm started.
A) Hardly/ then B) No sooner/ when C) No sooner/ than D) As soon as/ when

IV. Read the text below and think of one word which best fits in each gap. Use only *one word* in each gap: 10x1p=10p

Our family was a very democratic assembly: we were not a family in which (1) was a father who did a job, a mother who did a job, and the kids who did what they were told. As each one of (2) came to the use of reason, as it were, we were included in the family decisions. Once we knew (3) to count, we were involved in the family expenditure. We never had regular pocket-money as children, but if we needed money for something, we got (4). As long as the money (5) there, we could have some, even for frivolous and unnecessary purchases. But we were brought (6) to reflect that since we could get what we asked for, we (7) to be pretty responsible about asking. (8) you wanted something only because someone else had it, you were forced to think, "Well, that's not much of a reason. I don't really need it", and reconcile (9) to doing (10) it.

SUBIECTUL B- INTEGRATED SKILLS (60 points)

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

I. For each question decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits according to the text:

5x2p = 10p

The Future of Newspapers

Anybody who says they can reliably forecast the future of newspapers is either a liar or a fool. Look at the raw figures, and newspapers seem doomed. Since 2000, the circulation of most UK national dailies has fallen by between a third and a half. The authoritative Pew Research Centre in the USA reports that newspapers are now the main source of news for only 26 percent of US citizens as against 45 percent in 2001. There is no shortage of prophets who confidently predict that the last printed newspaper will be safely buried within 15 years at most.

Yet one of the few reliable facts of history is that old media have a habit of surviving. An over-exuberant New York journalist announced in 1835 that books and theatre 'have had their day' and the daily newspaper would become 'the greatest organ of social life'. Theatre duly withstood not only the newspaper, but also cinema and then television. Radio has flourished in the TV age; cinema, in turn, has held its own against videos and DVDs. Even vinyl records have made a comeback, with online sales up 745 percent since 2008.

Newspapers themselves were once new media, although it took several centuries before they became the dominant medium for news. This was not solely because producing up-to-date news for a large readership over a wide area became practicable and economic only in the mid-19th century, with the steam press, the railway and the telegraph. Equally important was the emergence of the idea that everything around us is in constant movement and we need to be updated on its condition at regular intervals – a concept quite alien in medieval times and probably also to most people in the early modern era. Now, we expect change. To our medieval ancestors, however, the only realities were the passing of the seasons, punctuated by catastrophes such as famine, flood or disease that they had no reliable means of anticipating. Life, as the writer Alain de Botton puts it, was 'ineluctably cyclical' and 'the most important truths were recurring'.

Journalism as a full-time trade from which you could hope to make a living hardly existed before the 19th century. Even then, there was no obvious reason why most people needed news on a regular basis, whether daily or weekly. In some respects, regularity of newspaper publication and rigidity of format was, and remains, a burden. Online news readers can dip in and out according to how

they perceive the urgency of events. Increasingly sophisticated search engines and algorithms allow us to personalise the news to our own priorities and interests. When important stories break, internet news providers can post minute-by-minute updates. Error, misconception and foolish speculation can be corrected or modified almost instantly. There are no space restrictions to prevent narrative or analysis, and documents or events cited in news stories can often be accessed in full. All this is a world away from the straitjacket of newspaper publication. Yet few if any providers seem alive to the new medium's capacity for spreading understanding and enlightenment.

Instead, the anxiety is always to be first with the news, to maximise reader comments, to create heat, sound and fury and thus add to the sense of confusion. In the medieval world, what news there was was usually exchanged amid the babble of the marketplace or the tavern, where truth competed with rumour, mishearing and misunderstanding. In some respects, it is to that world that we seem to be returning. Newspapers have never been very good – or not as good as they ought to be – at telling us how the world works. Perhaps they now face extinction. Or perhaps, as the internet merely adds to what de Botton describes as our sense that we live in 'an unimprovable and fundamentally chaotic universe', they will discover that they and they alone can guide us to wisdom and understanding.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer is presenting
 - A. his interpretation of a current trend.
 - B. evidence that supports a widespread view.
 - C. his prediction on the future of print journalism.
 - D. reasons for the decline in newspaper readership.
2. What point is the writer making in the second paragraph?
 - A. Existing media are not necessarily replaced by new ones.
 - B. The best media technologies tend to be the most long-lasting.
 - C. Public enthusiasm for new types of media is often unpredictable.
 - D. It is inevitable that most media technologies will have a limited life.
3. In the third paragraph, the writer stresses the significance of
 - A. a shift in people's attitudes towards the outside world.
 - B. certain key 19th-century advances in mechanisation.
 - C. the challenges of news distribution in the pre-industrial era.
 - D. the competition between newspapers and more established media.
4. What does the writer suggest is the main advantage of online news sites?
 - A. The ease of access for their users
 - B. The accuracy of the reporting
 - C. The flexibility of the médium
 - D. The breadth of their potential readership
5. What does the writer suggest about newspapers in the final paragraph?
 - A. They still have an important role to play.
 - B. They can no longer compete with the internet.
 - C. They will have to change to keep up with the digital age.
 - D. They will retain a level of popularity among certain types of readers.

II. The public library in your town is carrying out an investigation into changing trends in people's reading habits. As a member of the reading club in your school, you have been asked to write a report about the situation in your area.

You should:

- Describe the changes that have taken place over the last years;
- Say whether these changes have been for the better or worse;
- Say how you think the situation might develop in the future.

Write your report. (220-250 words)